



for immediate release

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## CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

LATINO CAUCUS EXTOLS VIRTUES OF IMMIGRANTS  
ON CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT DAY

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Sacramento – Assemblymember Joe Coto, Chair of the Latino Caucus and Senator Gilbert Cedillo Vice Chair, honor the virtues of immigrants to our society and culture in honor of California Immigrant Day.

The Latino Caucus vigorously rejects the proposed budget cuts that will directly impact the immigrant community of California. Immigrants play a crucial role in making California the eighth largest economy in the world. The proposed cuts to Medi-Cal, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants and emergency services to undocumented immigrants will do little to balance the estimated \$15 billion deficit and is direct affront to the most vulnerable Californians. As a nation founded by immigrants that has a long history of respect and admiration for their contributions to society, these cuts contradict our core principles.

Immigrants work hard, pay taxes and should be able to reap the benefits of their participation in California's success. We stand today with immigrants in California in denouncing and opposing the severe cuts targeting immigrants that have been proposed in Governor's Schwarzenegger's Budget Plan for 2008-09. These cuts include the elimination of the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), which serves as a virtual lifeline for elderly and disabled immigrants.

The governor's budget revision also denies full scope Medi-Cal coverage to lawful immigrants. This targeting of immigrants is discriminatory, unfair and inhumane. We have not seen such anti-immigrant sentiment since proposition 187. We hope to work with the governor and other lawmakers to avoid these harmful proposals.

Every day is Immigrants' Day in California. Every day in the history of the United States is Immigrants' Day but only with dignity, honor and respect.

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